



Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule December, 2014

Programs meet at the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail unless otherwise noted. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5153 for updates. See www.nps.gov/sagu for other programs.

December 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12 10:00 a.m. **Sonoran Lifestyles** 1 mile guided walk
15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 29, 30

Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

December 1, 2, 8, 15, 16 11:00 a.m. **A Taste of the Desert** garden walk

Join us for a stroll through our cactus garden and learn what plants can be used for food, clothing, medicine, shelter and much more. *Wheelchair accessible.*

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 2:00 p.m. **Reptiles of the Sonoran Desert** Presentation

Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians. *Wheelchair accessible.*

December 4, 11, 18, 2:00 p.m. **The Saguaro Nursery** ½ mile guided walk

The reports of the saguaro's demise were greatly exaggerated! Take a stroll along a trail to see the next generation of young saguaros and the gradual renewal of the "Cactus Forest".

December 5 & 19 8:00 a.m. **Desert Bird Walk** 1 mile guided walk

Join volunteer naturalist Ralph Terry for an easy 2-hour walk in search of desert birds. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

December 5, 12, 19 2:00 p.m. **Drive-Thru Geology** 1 hour auto tour

Hop in your car for a journey through 25 million years of earth history...in one hour! We'll observe the varied landforms of the desert – bajadas, washes, outcrops – and find out why geology students from around the world come to see the Rincon Mountain foothills. (Hint: it's the mylonitic gneiss!)g

December 5 & 18 3:00 p.m. **Creating Saguaro National Park** presentation

Join staff in the visitor center auditorium to discover how abuse, failure, politics, commitment, recovery and the Tucson Garden Club all played a part in creating today's Saguaro National Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

December 6, 13, 20, 27 11:00 a.m. **History 101** guided walk

Join a park ranger on a 1 to 2-mile walk and learn about some of the history that has made Saguaro National Park the great place it is today.

December 7, 14, 21, 28 1:00 p.m. **Meet the Hohokam** presentation

Join a park ranger in the visitor center auditorium for a hands-on introduction to the prehistoric people who once called Saguaro National Park home. *Wheelchair accessible.*

December 7, 14, 21, 28 3:00 p.m. **Medicinal Plants of the Desert** presentation

Learn about some of the native plants that are both easy on the eye and can make you feel better as well. *Wheelchair accessible.*

December 11 1:00 p.m. **The Big Chill** *presentation*

We all know the reptiles are hibernating for the winter and the turkey vultures have flown south, but what do the plants and all the other animals that are so well adapted to the desert's heat and aridity, do during cold weather? We have down jackets and mittens, but what do saguaros, javelinas, skunks, packrats, birds and other critters do in the winter? Join Pinau Merlin for a peek into what's happening in the Sonoran Desert during our winter chill. *Wheelchair accessible.*

December 11 7:00 p.m. **Star Party** *illustrated program & activity*

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. **Reservations required. Call 733-5153.** *Wheelchair accessible.*

December 12 & 26 3:00 p.m. **History is a Work in Progress** *presentation*

Join us in the visitor center auditorium to explore the almost forgotten names of people and places from the late 1800's in the area of the Rincon Mountains. *Wheelchair accessible.*

December 12 7:00 p.m. **Night Hike** *1 mile guided walk*

Join a park naturalist for this easy two-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, **advanced reservations are required**, and can be made by calling 733-5153.

December 20 4:30 p.m. **Sunset Stroll** *½ mile uided walk*

Sonoran Desert sunsets are famous for their blazing colors. Join a park ranger to discover how nature will paint the sky tonight.

December 21 11:00 a.m. **The GIANT Cactus** *¾ mile guided walk*

Saguaro National Park is famous for its gigantic saguaros. Still, you have to know where to look to find a real giant among giants. The best way is to join a ranger for a walk along a desert wash for a lesson in trees of the desert and a look at the only tree-like cactus in the U.S. You'll be surprised by the size! Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.